



# **Railroad Workers United**

***Solidarity • Unity • Democracy***

***The Rank & File in Action!***

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## **RWU Resolution in Opposition to a CP Takeover of NS**

**Whereas** the Canadian Pacific under CEO Hunter Harrison has in recent months has been attempting to build its empire by first assuming control of CSX and now the NS; and

**Whereas** this merger, if consummated, would certainly ignite another round of mega-mergers (similar to the last round in the 1990s) whereby Union Pacific and BNSF would no doubt initiate an all-out knock-down drag-out fight for control of NS eastern rival CSX; and

**Whereas**, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) wrote in its 2001 rulemaking on mergers and acquisitions, “The prospect of reducing the already small number of major Class I railroads even further, perhaps to the point where only two major railroads remain in the U.S. and Canada, gives us substantial concern;” and

**Whereas** historically these takeovers and mergers – while inflating the price of company stock and benefiting the stockholders – have generally left the workforce decimated and demoralized; and

**Whereas**, given the recent CP track record of decimating its workforce (more than 5000 jobs cut in the U.S. and Canada in the last 3 years), CP’s promise to drastically reduce operating ratios if the merger is consummated will most assuredly come at the expense of its employees

**Whereas** in the wake of corporate takeovers, countless union agreements – many negotiated painstakingly and over the course of years or even decades – are declared null and void by the new carrier; and

**Whereas** railroad mergers – and this one is sure to be no exception – generally result in “rationalization” of the physical plant; i.e. abandoning of “duplicate” structures (mainlines, branches, repair shops, dispatching centers, maintenance-of-Way depots and more), all to the detriment of the existing workforce; and

**Whereas** this merger (and the ones that would surely follow in its footsteps) would result in fewer Class I railroad systems in North America, further consolidating immense power and control over the three nation’s respective transportations systems and economies; and

**Whereas**, rail labor – in its fractured and divided state of countless small and ever shrinking, archaic craft unions – is incapable of mounting a challenge to these behemoth Class I “Fortune 500” corporations at this time, let alone in a more centralized and consolidated post-merger form;

**Therefore, Be it Resolved** that Railroad Workers United (RWU) go on record opposing this proposed merger/ takeover of NS by CP as one sure to be detrimental to and opposed to the interests of the workers of not only both roads but of *all* North American railroad workers; and

**Be it Further Resolved** that RWU call upon rank and file working railroaders to voice their opposition to any such merger/takeover; and

**Be it Finally Resolved** that RWU encourage the various trade unions that represent railroad workers in North America to follow the lead of the Transportation Communication Union (TCU/IAM) and condemn this merger in the strongest possible terms.

**Adopted by the RWU 5th Biennial Convention - Chicago, Illinois  
April 1, 2016**